

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

12/03/2001

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 192976001/BN	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/SE00/00715	International filing date (day/month/year) 14.04.2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 16.04.1999	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC7 D 21 H 17/68, A 61 L 15/18			
Applicant Korsnäs AB et al			

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.
- This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).
- These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
- I Basis of the report
 - II Priority
 - III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV Lack of unity of invention
 - V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI Certain documents cited
 - VII Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 01.11.2000	Date of completion of this report 19.03.2001	
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/SE Patent- och registreringsverket Box 5055 S-102 42 STOCKHOLM Facsimile No. 08-667 72 88	Telex 17978 PATOREG-S	Authorized officer Barbro Nilsson/Els Telephone No. 08-782 25 00

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the report

regard to the elements of the international application:*

 the international application as originally filed the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the claims:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, as amended (together with any statement) under article 19

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the drawings:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language English which is: the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

 contained in the international application in written form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages _____ the claims, Nos. _____ the drawings, sheet/fig _____5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2 (c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item I and annexed to this report.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-10	YES
	Claims _____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-10	YES
	Claims _____	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-10	YES
	Claims _____	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

The claimed invention relates to a method of making fluff pulp, the fluff pulp obtained, absorption products and use of the pulp and absorption products in hygiene products.

The aim of the invention is to obtain good network strength in cellulose fluff pulp. To obtain good network strength the defibration has to be effective and the knot content has to be low. According to the invention a fluff pulp with low knot content and good network strength is obtained when the pulp contains bentonite in an amount of 0,2 to 7 kg per ton fluff pulp. Optionally the pulp can contain an additional inorganic particle in an amount of 0,2 to 7 kg per ton pulp. The total amount of retained particle additive should not exceed 8 kg per ton dry defibrated fluff pulp.

The most relevant document cited in the International Search Report.

A) WO 9817856 A1

Document A discloses the production of cellulose fluff in which the pulp contains inorganic particles such as clays e.g. bentonite, calcium carbonate, talc, and mixtures thereof. The document says that reduced fiberization energy is required to make the fluff and that the fluff has lower contents of knots."

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Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: V

The claimed invention differs from the subject matter in A in that the amount bentonite used is lower. The present application has shown that an optimum with regard to knot content and network strength is found in the interval of added bentonite. Thus, the invention claimed is novel. There is no indication in A that higher network strength is obtained by using lower amount of bentonite and thus the claimed invention can not be considered obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Accordingly, the invention claimed in claims 1-10 is novel, is considered to involve inventive step and to comprise industrial applicability.